



Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal

Address for
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	09/931,973
Filing Date	August 17, 2001
First Named Inventor	Yousuke Yamada
Group Art Unit	1723
Examiner Name	Krishnan S. Menon
Attorney Docket Number	10417-091001

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

- Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)

 - ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ☐ Other _____
 - ☒ Enclosed
 - ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - ☒ Other Attached Reply to Final Action which restates arguments from previously submitted Reply to Action dated August 19, 2004; Petition for Extension + Fee
- Miscellaneous**

 - ☒ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of 3 months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
 - ☒ Other and Fee
- Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

 - ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
 - ☐ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - ☒ Other Any deficiencies
 - ☒ Check in the amount of \$1040.00 enclosed
 - ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Richard P. Ferrara	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	30,632
Signature	<i>Richard P. Ferrara</i>	Date	December 17, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)	Rose Papetti	Date	December 17, 2004
Signature	<i>Rose Papetti</i>		

12/21/2004 KBETEMRI 00000074 09931973

01 FC:1801

790.00 OP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yousuke Yamada
Serial No. : 09/931,973
Filed : August 17, 2001
Title : FILTER DEVICE

Art Unit : 1723
Examiner : Krishnan S. Menon

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF AUGUST 19, 2004

In reply to the Final Office Action of August 19, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Abstract of Japan JP-07-060074 (the '074 reference) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,156,200 (Zha et al.). Applicant respectfully disagrees with those rejections.

An English-language translation of the '074 reference was previously submitted. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the claim rejections in light of that previously submitted translation and the comments that follow.

The '074 reference discloses a hollow fiber membrane module with a housing 6 and a plurality of hollow fiber membranes 7 inside the housing. Each hollow fiber membrane 7 is fixed by a fixative resin 8. (See page 2, lines 16 – 19 of the translation) A raw fluid inlet port 1 is provided, as is a gas supply inlet 4.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 17, 2004

Date of Deposit

Signature

Rose Papetti

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate